

Appln. No.: 10/021,426
Amendment Dated July 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 11, 2005

MATP-607US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-18 are pending in the above-identified application.

Claims 1, 5, 7 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. With regard to claims 1, 7 and 13, this rejection is overcome by amending claims 1, 7 and 13 to omit the term "combined." With regard to claim 5, this ground for rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 5 recites that the DTMF tones are stored with the audio messages in the storage device. Claim 5 does not disclose that the both the message data and the translated DTMF tones are stored as a combined message. The invention description does disclose that both the message data and the translated DTMF tones are stored in memory, as recited in claim 5. (See, for example, paragraph [0024] which states that both the audio message and the text representation of the DTMF tones are stored in the memory 214).

Claims 1, 4, 6-7, 10, 12-13, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Klausner et al. This rejection is overcome by the amendments to claims 1-7 and 13. Basis for these amendments may be found in the specification at paragraphs [0016]-[0022] and [0027] and Figure 1. With regard to claim 1, claim 1 was amended to be directed to a set top box comprising a television receiver that receives and demodulates television signals, a telecommunications unit that records and presents audio messages which include DTMF tones and a video processor that processes both the demodulated television signals and the text representation of the DTMF tones for display. The Claims 2-6 were amended to be directed to the set top box according to claim 1.

Klausner et al. teaches a telephone answering device (TAD) which includes a means of intelligently organizing voice messages, associated entered codes such as personal IDs and home telephone numbers, and information stored in the memory of the TAD. These codes or numbers are decoded by means of the caller entering DTMF signals into the telephone which are recognized, recorded and processed by the TAD. When processed with codes and personal information previously entered into the device's memory, the TAD displays the identity of the callers for each message, thus providing a menu of choices, i.e., a list of callers. This enables the user to access messages in a selective manner based on the identity of the caller. The need to listen to the actual voice messages to determine the caller's identity and the need

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to listen to the messages sequentially or chronologically is obviated, saving both time and effort.

As shown in Figure 1, the invention in Klausner et al. requires a specialized display device to display text. Klausner et al. do not disclose or suggest a set-top box having both a television receiver and a telecommunications unit and, more particularly, that text from representations of DTMF tones are processed for display by a video processor. Thus, the present invention has the advantage of utilizing existing display facilities rather than requiring a specialized display device, as shown in Klausner et al. Because Klausner et al. do not disclose or suggest this limitation of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Klausner et al. Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2-6 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Klausner et al.

With regard to claim 7, claim 7, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claim 7 is also not subject to rejection for the same reasons as those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Claims 10 and 12 depend from claim 7. Accordingly, claims 10 and 12 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Klausner et al.

With regard to claim 13, the rejection is overcome by amending claim 13 to include receiving and demodulating television signals and displaying the demodulated television signals and the text representation of the DTMF tones onto a display device. Klausner et al. do not disclose or suggest these limitations. As described above, the invention in Klausner et al. requires a specialized display device to display text. The invention in Klausner et al. does not display demodulated television signals onto a display device. Because the present invention includes receiving and demodulating television signals and processing the demodulated television signals and the text representation of the DTMF tones for display on a display device. The present invention has the advantage of utilizing an existing display device rather than requiring a specialized display device, as shown in Klausner et al. Because Klausner et al. do not disclose or suggest these limitations of claim 13, claim 13 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Klausner et al. Claims 16 and 18 depend from claim 13. Accordingly, claims 16 and 18 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Klausner et al.

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Claims 2-3, 5, 8-9, 11, 14-15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious in view of Klausner et al and McNutt et al. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claims 1-3, 5, 7 and 13. With regard to claim 1, neither Klausner et al., McNutt et al., nor their combination disclose or suggest a set top box comprising a television receiver that receives and demodulates television signals, a telecommunications unit that records and presents audio messages which include DTMF tones and a video processor that processes the demodulated television signals and the text representations of the DTMF tones for display. Klausner et al. is described above.

McNutt et al. relates to a system for taking and retrieving telephone messages. The system is used with a PBX and includes a central computer, operator stations for taking telephone messages, and retrieval stations permitting retrieval of messages either locally or via a telephone call. The central computer includes a disk drive and is connected via a RS 232 link to the PBX. Information about parties having telephones connected to the PBX and messages in the ASCII codes for those parties are stored on the disk drive. Each operator station includes a personal computer which is connected by an adapter to a telephone line from the PBX and by a data link to the central computer. The personal computer has a keyboard and display. When a call is forwarded to an operator station, the central computer provides information about the caller to the PC, which displays it on the station display. Messages for the caller are entered using the PC keyboard and forwarded by the PC to the central computer. Each retrieval station contains a personal computer with keyboard and display which is connected by an adapter to a telephone line from the PBX and by a data link to the central computer. When a message is stored in the central computer for a callee, that fact is indicated on the display. A message may be retrieved either by means of the keyboard or by means of a telephone call to the retrieval station. In both cases, the retrieval station retrieves the message from the disk and in the latter case, the retrieval station provides the message over the phone line by converting the stored message to voice signals.

McNutt et al. do not disclose or suggest a set-top box having both a television receiver and a telecommunications unit and, more particularly, that text from the telecommunications unit is provided to a video processor for display on a display device. Because neither Klausner et al. nor McNutt et al. disclose or suggest this limitation of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Klausner et al and

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McNutt et al. Claims 2-3 and 5 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2-3 and 5 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Klausner et al. and McNutt et al.

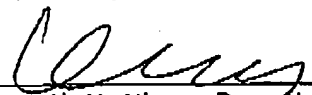
With regard to claims 8, 9 and 11, claim 7, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claim 7 is also not subject to rejection for the same reasons as those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Claims 8, 9 and 11 depend from claim 7. Accordingly, claims 8, 9 and 11 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Klausner et al. and McNutt et al.

With regard to claims 14, 15 and 17, the rejection is overcome by amending claim 13 to include receiving and demodulating television signals and processing the demodulated television signals and the text representation of the DTMF tones for display on a display device. Neither Klausner et al., nor McNutt et al. disclose or suggest these limitations. Claims 14, 15 and 17 depend from claim 13. Accordingly, claims 14, 15 and 17 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Klausner et al. and McNutt et al.

The prior art made of record but not applied has been considered but does not affect the patentability of the invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-18.

Respectfully submitted,


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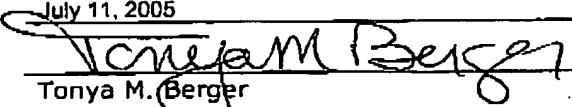
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